

**Security Council**

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Identical letters dated 25 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you with regard to the letter dated 10 April 2017 from the representative of the Syrian regime.

Turkey categorically refutes, in their entirety, the fictitious allegations contained in the aforementioned letter and in the statements delivered by the representative of the Syrian regime at the Security Council meetings held on 12 April 2017. The regime, which continues its barbarous and systematical chemical weapons attacks on the Syrian people, lost its legitimacy long ago and is the very root cause of all the problems emanating from the Syrian conflict. Those accusations are yet another futile attempt by the regime to evade its responsibility and distort the facts.

The use of toxic chemicals as weapons constitutes a war crime, a crime against humanity and a violation of international law. It is a breach of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, to which Syria is a party, and defies the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Living up to its well-established record, the Syrian regime has refrained from fully declaring its chemical weapons stockpiles. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) points to gaps, inconsistencies and discrepancies in the regime's declarations on its chemical weapons programme, while the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism, building on OPCW fact-finding mission investigations, has found the regime responsible in at least three cases of chemical weapons use.

The systematic and repeated use of toxic chemicals by the Syrian regime is a reminder to the international community that, unless the perpetrators of those attacks are held accountable for their crimes, they will continue unabated.

In view of the Syrian regime's documented and continued non-compliance, we reiterate our call upon the Security Council to take measures against that regime under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if the present letter would be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Feridun H. Sinirlioglu
Permanent Representative

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